

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 18th July 2023

Police & Crime Commissioner's update

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Panel with an update on progress in developing the current Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) for Lancashire 2021-2025.

This report also aims to highlight some of activity of the PCC/Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to consider the report.

Background

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner has a responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for the Constabulary's performance as against the Police and Crime Plan priorities by means of the Accountability Board meeting.
2. This link <https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/meetings-reports/accountability-board-meeting/> details of the Accountability Board papers received from the Chief Constable and the Minutes of the meeting records the PCC holding the Chief Constable to account.
3. The Panel are therefore referred to the Accountability Board meetings and may through today's meeting ask the Police and Crime Commissioner issues they feel relevant to the Scrutiny activity.

Performance Headlines

4. On 23 May 2023, the Commissioner held his Accountability Board meeting with the Chief Constable. The Commissioner received an update on the Constabulary's performance against the Police and Crime Plan priorities, and the progress and rollout of the Targeted Operating Model (TOM).

Key issues discussed included:

- Ongoing success of Op Warrior, including recent seizures and one of over 200kg of cocaine
- Op Defender, which focuses on cracking down on burglary and robbery, particularly in residential settings, and a 4% reduction in incidents

- Update on civil orders and the positive role these are having with support from local authorities alongside arrests.
5. The Commissioner marked his two years in post by reflecting on the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan, recognising the work of Lancashire Constabulary and partners including:
 - Reopening of police front counters ensuring every borough has face to face access to the Constabulary
 - Scrapping of the hybrid model and investment into dedicated neighbourhood policing teams for every area
 - Launch of Op Warrior and successfully targeting criminal gangs
 - Surpassing the police uplift target and recruiting more than 600 police officers
 6. The Commissioner released the terms of reference for the independent review into the high profile Missing from Home case regarding the sad death of Nicola Bulley, confirming the review is ongoing and that the College of Policing expect to publish its report in Autumn 2023.
 7. The Commissioner has welcomed news that Lancashire Constabulary exceeded its police uplift recruitment target, with 612 additional officers brought into the force, many of whom have now completed their training.
 8. The Commissioner has secured an additional £2m for Lancashire as part of the Government's ASB Action Plan, to boost foot patrols dedicated to tackling ASB and in hotspot policing areas, supporting the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan commitment to get tough on ASB.
 9. This followed a letter from the Commissioner to Michael Gove MP earlier in the year to raise the issue of anti-social behaviour and his offer to work with the Government's new taskforce.
 10. The final area to cease the hybrid model of policing, Ribble Valley, saw the creation of a new dedicated neighbourhood policing team. Furthermore, 24/7 response policing teams are once again going to be based at Clitheroe police station.
 11. Over the twelve-month period to April 2023, Lancashire Victim Services, which the Commissioner is responsible for delivering, has received over 43,000 referrals, offering support to victims of crime, providing specialist support to thousands of serious crimes such as domestic abuse and sexual violence.
 12. The Commissioner reopened his Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund (SLNF) in March 2023 after funding over £600k of projects since it was first launched in Spring 2022.
 13. Over £60k of cash, seized from criminals, was provided to the first successful projects in 2023/24, including over £33k to five local organisations through the Community Fund strand of the SLNF. This includes CCTV, Street Pastors, and a Shop and Pub Watch scheme.

14. £9k was provided to three projects via the Police Innovation Fund, which aims to support ideas and innovative ways of working that could make a difference to policing in Lancashire. This includes a scheme to tackle motorbike ASB and offender mapping and data improvements.
15. A further £18k was approved, outside of the fund but, utilising proceeds of crime cash taken from offenders for the Safe storage of seized cash.
16. In May, the Commissioner announced that he secured £745k to tackle domestic abuse across Lancashire. The money is being used to fund the Drive Project, that works with repeat offenders to reduce the harm caused to victims and children. The project is being delivered by Victim Support Services in close partnership with other local services to achieve long term behaviour change and reduce incidents of domestic abuse.
17. Other areas of the country where the Drive Project has been operating have seen a significant reduction in the use of abuse amongst service users with the project focusing on breaking the cycle of abuse and working with the highest risk, serial perpetrators.
18. The Commissioner attended the internal launch of the Constabulary's new ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command, where he spoke about the vital role they will play, problem solving with partners and getting tough on ASB.
19. The Commissioner also visited the British Transport Police base in Preston Train Station, to discuss the important partnership between Lancashire Constabulary.
20. He met the team and talked about the key areas of co-operation, policing of major events like festivals and football matches, anti-social behaviour and organised crime.
21. Crimestoppers has received its highest number of reports relating to Lancashire this year, an increase of 12.8% in reports, including the highest ever monthly figure in March 2023.
22. Organised crime campaign Operation Warrior has helped to secure double the national average increase – a clear indication that the public's confidence in reporting crimes, albeit anonymously is on the rise.
23. The Commissioner visited West Division RASSO team, based at Blackpool Divisional Headquarters, one of three specialist Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Teams, funded last year, to see the difference that the three specialist teams have had across the county.
24. The Commissioner discussed the different ways that the RASSO teams are helping improve outcomes for victims, and heard about key successes from the previous twelve months.

25. Lancashire is marked at the highest level on the Serious Violence Duty Joint Readiness Assessment from the Home Office. Discussions have taken place with specified and relevant authorities on how the serious violence funding for 23/24 and 24/25 will be best used.

Recommendation

26. Panel Members are recommended to consider the information contained in this report, and the information provided within the meeting, and comment accordingly.

Angela Harrison
Chief Executive